

July-August, 2009



The Desk Top



Portage County Retired Teachers

2009 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS HONORED

Six outstanding high school seniors who plan to become teachers will be honored at our July 16 luncheon. The scholarship committee reviewed 12 applicants from Windham, Kent Roosevelt, Southeast, Streetsboro, Rootstown, James A. Garfield, and Ravenna high schools who applied for the \$1,000 awards. Congratulations to **Cody Apthorpe, Kaitlyn Briggs, Brandon Broadwater, Emily Mason, Taylor Polatas, and Courtney Spellman** who will be our guests on July 16.

It is not surprising that all applicants excelled in academics; participated in many school and community activities; and were leaders in clubs, sports, and activities in and out of school. Teacher recommendations praised these future teachers and predicted unusually high performance in college.

Volume 19 – Issue 3

Inside this issue:

<i>Note from 2008 Scholarship Winner Leadership Team</i>	2
<i>2009 Scholarship Recipients How Scholarships Are Funded</i>	3
<i>Apples and Grapes Safety Hint Legislative Report</i>	4
<i>Prez Sez</i>	5
<i>Membership Form Volunteer Hours</i>	6
<i>Treasurer's Report What to Do About the Flu</i>	7
<i>Membership: Hard At Work Looking Back</i>	8
<i>Mildred Price—100th Birthday Old Age is a Gift</i>	9
<i>Meeting Minutes</i>	10
<i>Book Exchange Luncheon Reservation</i>	11
<i>Calendar</i>	12



Cody Ellis Clark Apthorpe hopes to teach junior high science and coach basketball after earning his degree at Bowling Green State University. He uses his landscaping skills to plant memorial trees at school and in public parks, and he volunteers with a local garden club. He also volunteers as a youth basketball coach, sings at nursing homes, and rings bells for the Salvation Army. While taking a rigorous schedule at Windham High School, Cody was a three-season athlete, an officer in National Honor Society and student council, and took part in many extra-curricular activities.

Kaitlyn Briggs demonstrates enthusiasm, a positive attitude, a unique personality, and an optimistic outlook which will help her make physics classes come alive when she begins teaching. She will attend Clarion University. While attending Kent Roosevelt High School she was a four-year letter winner in cross country, swimming, and track. She participated in a San Antonio conference for her church and will go to New Orleans this summer for a church service project. She has been a 4-H member for nine years and has assisted with Special Olympics for four years.



Brandon Broadwater earned a perfect 4.0 GPA at Southeast High School and will further his education at Wright State University. He will earn a dual major in French and Spanish and plans to spend some time studying abroad. He looks forward to incorporating linguistics, culture, and history into his teaching and hopes to become active in leading extracurricular activities including international trips. He is the treasurer of the foreign language club and participates in Quiz Bowl. He tutors fellow high school students in many subjects and KSU students in math and French.

More Scholarship Recipients on Page 3



GREETINGS FROM 2008 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT: RACHEL BAUGHMAN

Hello! My name is Rachel Baughman and last year I received a scholarship from the PCRTA to work towards History Secondary Education certification at Marietta College! I was just hoping to contact you and, once again, express my gratitude! I have had a wonderful freshman year at Marietta College, even receiving the opportunity to observe a local high school classroom and teach a few lessons! I am extremely excited for all that is ahead and am compassionately and energetically pursuing my dream to become a teacher! I truly could not have done this without your support. So I give a sincere thanks to your organization! Have a wonderful day and please feel free to contact me at rkb001@marietta.edu!

Rachel



Interested in being a NEOUCOM Proctor??? Call Edie Scott at 330-297-1812 to put your name on the list for the next training session.

2009 PCRTA LEADERSHIP TEAM	COMMITTEE CHAIRS
OFFICERS	Archival—Norm Park
President—Ray Troxtell 330-562-2158 RaymondTrox@hotmail.com	Community Services—Judith Morgan 330-653-8174
Vice President--Terrie Sargi 330-678-1737 tchrsarg@aol.com	Informative & Protective Services —Kay Wise 330-297-1110 KayWise@aol.com
Recording Secretary—Ruth Weigand 330-673-4788 RWeigand001@neo.rr.com	Membership—Art Fesemyer 330-296-5749 afesemyer@neo.rr.com
Corresponding Secretary--Carol Kates	Memorial & Sunshine—Mary Jane Brannon 330-673-3138
Treasurer—Darlene Fetterhoff	NEOUCOM Proctor Project— Edith Scott 330-297-1812
Assistant Treasurer—Les Bennett 330-673-4115 lesbennett@aol.com	Newsletter—Pat Gynn 330-678-8423 PCRTA@aol.com
ORTA Trustee & Legislative Chair — Dan McCombs 330-673-0744 KSUDan1@aol.com	Nominations—Jan Fencil 330-678-1758
Past President—Dave Gynn 330-678-8423 PCRTA@aol.com	Public Relations—Evelyn Park
	Retirement Planning—Ria Mastromatteo
	Scholarship—Jim Montaquila 330-657-2017 tribe123@alltel.net
	Telephone & Communications—Saroj Sutaria 330-678-9045 sarojsutaria@yahoo.com
	Webmaster—Connie Evans 330-296-6733 cncevans@gmail.com



Emily Mason has always wanted to be a teacher since she was a little girl. She has played many leadership and volunteer roles and is a four-year scholar athlete at James A. Garfield High School. She has been very involved with theater participating in dramas and musicals, and she has served as a student choreographer. She has been cheerleading for 12 years and coaches elementary school cheerleaders. Volunteering for Safety Village, she has been a committee member, group leader, and teacher for four years. She will become a high school English teacher.

Taylor Polatas is bright, articulate, and dedicated - a true Renaissance woman. She serves as business manager of Theodore Roosevelt High School's school paper and has been inducted into the Quill and Scroll Society. She is the president of Key Club, an active member of Booster Club, participates in Leadership Retreat, and is in the National Honor Society. Her trips to the Dominican Republic and Mexico on medical missions have influenced her to major in Spanish education at Olivet Nazarene University. This summer she will teach English at a Compassion School in the Dominican Republic.



Courtney Spellman plans to attend Kent State University or Ashland University to earn bachelors and masters degrees in integrated social studies and political science and looks forward to becoming a high school history teacher. She ranks sixth in a class of 213 seniors at Ravenna High School. She has participated in band and cheerleading for four years, is the NHS vice president, and served as class treasurer. She is a role model for teen volunteers by coaching youth cheerleaders, volunteering at Hope and Happy Trails Animal Farm, and participating in many other school activities.

HOW OUR SCHOLARSHIPS ARE FUNDED

PCRTA's first scholarship was \$100 granted in 1994. The amount was increased to \$200 in 1999, \$300 in 2002, \$500 in 2006, and to \$1,000 last year. Seventy future teachers have received PCRTA scholarships. Money for books and expenses is helpful, but the recognition and support are significant to students planning to become teachers. We are one link in the future of these potential teachers.

Our scholarship fund is supported by contributions, memorials, and volunteer efforts. **Northeast Ohio Universities College of Medicine and Pharmacy** makes a significant contribution to the fund in appreciation for our members who **volunteer to proctor tests**.

Contributions are often made to the fund by members who see value in supporting these future teachers. Some people add a little extra to their luncheon reservations designating the extra money to go to the scholarship fund. Other members send direct donations.


Making a **memorial contribution** is a worthy way to leave a lasting tribute. This year memorials have been made in the names of **Mabelle Apley, Theresa Bica, Carol McGill, Betty Murray, and Virginia Patton**. Money was also contributed to the scholarship fund from the estate of **Mabelle Apley**, a PCRTA member who retired from Kent City Schools.


Consider the PCRTA Future Teacher Scholarship Fund when you do your estate planning. If an obituary requests that memorials be made to PCRTA, the notice should include the address of the current treasurer. A card will be sent to acknowledge all memorial contributions. Consult your financial planner or attorney to designate a portion of your estate for this worthy purpose.


Memorial gifts will live in perpetuity.





 **RED APPLES AND SOUR GRAPES** 


 RED APPLES to the members who volunteered for President Ray's new social committee and long-range planning committee. It's not too late for YOU to answer Ray's call.

 RED APPLES to all the Future Teacher Scholarship applicants and to their teachers who wrote such awesome recommendations.

 SOUR GRAPES to county high schools with no applications for our Future Teacher scholarships.

 RED APPLES to Ohio Representatives, especially Steve Dyer, for crafting school funding legislation with less reliance on property taxes.

 RED APPLES to readers who share books through our book exchange.

 SOUR GRAPES to people who place current books on shelves to gather dust rather than bringing one or two to the book exchange.

Send your nominations for Red Apples or Sour Grapes to PCRTA@aol.com or call 330-678-8423.

SAFETY HINT: PUT YOUR CAR KEYS BESIDE YOUR BED AT NIGHT! If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get into your house, just press the horn button on your car's remote key. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until you turn it off or the battery dies.

If your alarm goes off when someone is trying to break in your house, odds are the burglar won't stick around. After a short while, your neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and the criminal will be gone.

This will also be helpful in an emergency where you can't reach the phone. If you live alone, tell your neighbors about this plan. Then if they hear your horn honking, they will know you need some help.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT by Dan McCombs

Just a quick note to inform you that according to Jim Miller, STRS Federal Consultant, the Government Pension Offset Bill will not be addressed this year. The chairman of the committee, John Tanner, of Tennessee, (a Blue Dog Democrat) and ranking member, Sam Johnson of Texas are not supportive. There would be an 80 billion dollar cost for this program over a ten-year period. This bill has been introduced each year since 1987 without passage.

Jim Miller was one of our speakers at the Spring ORTA conference in Columbus. He tells us that a Health Care Reform Bill is on a fast track due to Senator Kennedy's own poor health. Kennedy wants this bill passed as part of his legacy. There are plans to have the bill on the floor for discussion as early as July. It will only need 51 votes in the Senate for passage due to its fast track status.

Questions yet to be determined are:

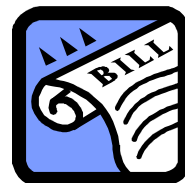
1. Who will have access?
2. What will be the cost?

4. Will it be a public or private plan (or a combination of the two)? and finally...
5. What will be the implications for STRS?

Did you know that an STRS retiree gets benefits for an average of 26 years after retirement? Employee contributions pay for 3 years, while Board of Education contributions pay for 6 years. The rest of the time is paid for by investment income.

Finally, Jim tells us that Social Security reform will not happen this year, but Medicare reform might.

On a scary note, as the funds of these agencies become depleted, the Federal Government will be looking for new ways to fund them. This means that mandatory coverage of all teachers will probably be back on the table.



Dan McCombs,
ORTA Trustee

Have a happy summer. *Dan*

PREZ SAYS: FACING PENSION AND HEALTH CARE REFORM By Ray Troxtell

We are being confronted with a number of financial issues today as a result of the longevity revolution, rapidly rising medical costs of healthcare, and a drop of investment value and income.

Here in Ohio, our five public retirement systems pay out \$800 million monthly to retirees plus \$8 million daily for health care for members. This is big business even by Washington D.C. standards. STRS pays \$69 million plus annually to retirees in Portage County.

The average STRS retiree lives 26 years in retirement. Their personal contribution pays for three years of retirement income, and the contribution from their school's Board of Education pays for six years. The balance is paid from investment income.

Our Ohio Legislature is presently preoccupied with the budget for the next two years. We are receiving information that they are now ready to turn their attention to reforming the pension systems of Ohio.

Some of the ideas regarding STRS are:

- Reducing the amount given for COLAs – cost of living adjustments
- Extending the age of retirement to 60 or older
- Reducing the 35-year incentive back to what it was before
- Reducing the cost of health care to the pension system

There is nothing that is not subject to their interest. We need to be vigilant and not be closed minded, but be willing to be flexible. The public is full of "pension envy." Remember that politics has nothing to do with what is logical or rational. Politics will win most of the time.

We have been seeking a stream of revenue to fund our rapidly declining health care stabilization fund. There have been some health care plans introduced in Congress, and they should appear on the floor by July, 2009. A simple majority in each house is all that is needed to pass the bill in Congress.

The question appears to be whether it will be a public plan or a privately-administered plan. We have not any idea of the impact on public and private health plans and their payrolls. Polls indicate that most people think that a health plan

with prescriptions for a family should not cost them more than \$100 dollars a month.

The best way to communicate with the legislators is through Email followed by a phone call to let them know that you have Emailed your thoughts to them. Since the threats of anthrax, letters are generally thrown out without ever being read.

We must educate legislators on the issues they are facing. We need to be part of the solutions or they will control our retirement funds. A "No Way" attitude puts us at a great disadvantage. Do not threaten or try to intimidate them. It just doesn't work.

The proposed repeal of the Social Security Pension Offset Provision has many sponsors in both the Senate and the House. Despite the large number of sponsors each year, it never makes it out of committee. The increased costs of Social Security and Medicare fuels the idea of mandatory Social Security coverage for everyone.

The idea of forced mandatory coverage for everyone would destroy many public and private plans due to the costs to every state. Every state has pockets of non-mandatory coverage—usually police and fire pension plans. The real issue for repeal is one of equality. Under Social Security, a spouse who has not contributed to Social Security may draw half of the spouse's benefit; and upon the death of the spouse, they receive the full benefit. This is not true of our pension plans.

We will try to keep each of you informed, but the situation in Washington, D.C. is fluid and changes almost daily. Call us if you have questions or concerns.

On a more uplifting note...the NRTA has presented 15 national awards and ORTA chapters have received five of them. Congratulations!

Ray

*We need to be
a part of the
solutions
or they
will control
our retirement
funds.*



Ray Troxtell,
PCRTA President

2009 PCRTA and ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____
 Retirement School/Year _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 E-mail Address _____
 Phone _____
 Last 4 digits of Social Security Number _____
 Associate Member's Name if joining (non-teacher spouse or friend)

 Gift Membership from _____

2009 DUES PAYMENT	
PCRTA & ORTA ANNUAL DUES:	
(PCRTA \$10 +ORTA \$20) = \$30	_____
PCRTA Life Membership	\$150 _____
ORTA Life Membership	\$300 _____
PCRTA Associate Member	\$5 _____
Scholarship Fund Donation	_____
TOTAL	_____



Make one check payable to PCRTA. Mail completed form and check to
 Darlene J. Fetterhoff, Treasurer, 2417 Duck Pond Dr., Ravenna, OH 44266



Please copy or clip the form above and give it to someone who has retired or will be retiring and has not yet joined our group. There is strength in numbers, and we need to present a strong front to the legislature while we work together to help protect our pensions and our health care.

Encourage them to attend our meetings, but if they aren't interested in doing that, at least let them add their voice to ours when we speak in one clear loud teacher voice to our state and national legislators to let them know our needs.

REPORT VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

Retired teachers are a rich source of talent for volunteer and community service activities.

Use this form to report your service hours for January through July.

Clip or copy and mail this form to Judith Morgan, 265 Jade Boulevard, Streetsboro, OH 44241



Check the areas where you volunteer and estimate your total volunteer hours for each month.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal welfare | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical societies | <input type="checkbox"/> Patriotic organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Centers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civic groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals | <input type="checkbox"/> Political organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Service organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Social services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crusades and Drives | <input type="checkbox"/> Museums | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Tutorial services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Homes | <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Homes | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handicapped assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools | _____ |

Name _____ Jan-May Hrs _____ June Hours _____ July Hours _____

TREASURER'S REPORT by Darlene Fetterhoff



Report for April 9 to May 16, 2009

Beginning Balance:	\$13,916.92
Expenses:	1,577.05
D Fetterhoff office supplies	22.17
D Gynn copying & postage	40.07
ORTA dues	700.00
M Leedom—Newsletter	351.54
J Montaquilla—Scholarship	52.96
A Fesemyer—Membership	306.98
T Sargie—March speaker	100.00
Bank Fee	3.33
Income:	\$ 2,175.00
Ending Balance:	\$14,414.87
Scholarship Total in Checking	\$ 9,140.44
Checking Working Balance	\$ 5,274.43



IN MEMORY OF:

Ralph H. Hall, Member since 1993
Died September 2008

Dues Update:

Thanks to all of you who followed through paying your annual dues prior to June 1, 2009. Of course, we will accept dues after that date, but then PCRTA loses money. Over 80 post cards were mailed out as reminders, and then Art Fesemyer followed through with phone calls. Please, if you plan to renew your dues, do so soon. Time and expenses add up. We hope that we can count on your support.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE FLU

The current flu virus has not been called a pandemic. That means it is a newly emerging infection that is able to cause serious illness in humans and can be easily spread from person to person. We can take action to prevent a spread of the flu.

>>Wash hands frequently. Use soap and water or alcohol-based cleaners to prevent transmitting viruses that normally get stuck on the hands in day-to-day activities.



>>Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread that way.



>>Avoid people who cough and sneeze. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends people cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when they cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash. Flu is spread primarily through coughing and sneezing.

>>Stay home if you experience flu-like symptoms. The CDC recommends limiting contact with others to keep from infecting them, especially if you have been to Mexico recently.

>>Rethink your plans for traveling to Mexico.

>>Plan ahead. Stay informed about what is happening in the community and follow instructions from reliable sources.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE HARD AT WORK by Art Fesemyer, Membership Chair

Many thanks to the following members who have volunteered to be on the Membership Committee this year: **Jane Bridge, Tom Campana, Adele Fussner, Merrielu Ritz, Carol Rudlosky, Saroj Sutar, Gordon Weber, and Kay Wise.**

The PCRTA Executive Board suggested that some changes should be made to *our new color brochure* before the master went to the printer. We sent the board's recommendations to the designer, **Jeff Kirby**, who made the changes.

The new brochure came back to us by Email in a PDF form that the printers requested. When we asked for estimates for printing the brochures, we were amazed at the difference in prices. The lowest cost (and the one we chose) was 49 cents each, and the closest to this was 77 cents. But some of the estimates were over a dollar each.

We now have received the revised brochures and are ready to start our mailing. We are still hoping that we will receive an STRS updated list of those retired teachers who reside in Portage County, but if it does not arrive, we will use the list from last year and update it.

We are always looking for *reasons to induce new retirees to join our organizations*. There is one reason that does not apply to all retired teachers, but it does affect a sizable number, more than we had suspected. We have had complaints not only from STRS members but also from PERS retirees who also worked under the social security program. They feel that the legislation that reduces their Social Security payments just because they are part of a public retirement system is grossly unfair.

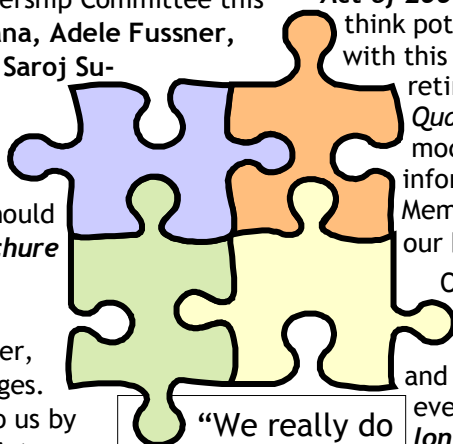
ORTA has been trying to get the *Social Security Fairness Act of 2009* passed by the House of Representatives. We think potential members of PCRTA might want to help with this effort. They can do this by joining the retirement organizations. The *ORTA Spring Quarterly* has provided a model letter that can be modified and sent to legislators, but this contact information was not available to non-members. The Membership Committee feels that a *unified effort* is our best bet to get this legislation passed.

Other issues we ask potential members to consider when they are thinking about joining, are the rapidly rising costs of health insurance and the fluctuations of the stock market that affect everyone's pension; plus there are *services like long-term care, dental and vision plans, and the newest insurance now available for emergency transportation* that are available to members.

We realize that there is just *no substitute for personal contact* when it comes to maintaining or increasing our membership. And although this has a nice sound, it has proved to be a very difficult if not an impossible task. What we have done is to enclose a personal letter with each application; in the letter we emphasize the many benefits of membership. Near the close of the letter, we use the phrase that we hope will be effective again this year:

"We really do need you, and you really do need us."

Art



"We really do need you, and you really do need us."

Welcome to new member, **Patricia Mazzer** who retired this year from Ravenna Schools. Thanks for your support!



LOOKING BACK INTO THE ARCHIVES "High Expectations" by Norm Park, Archivist

A little item appeared in one of our newsletters in 1993 dealing with the scholarship committee. It seems the committee's goal then was to award a scholarship of \$100 to each school in the county. With ten schools, that would have added up to \$1,000!



That was pretty big money in those days, and it wasn't until recently that we reached that amount as the cost of one scholarship per recipient with several scholarships given each year.

It doesn't hurt to aim high!



HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY! TO MILDRED PRICE

Congratulations to PCRTA Member, Mildred Price, on reaching her 100th birthday. Darlene Fetterhoff and Pat Gynn visited Mildred and took her a card and some flowers on behalf of PCRTA to help to celebrate her special birthday.

Mildred was born April 29, 1909. She attended school in Edinburg up to the 11th grade, and finished her senior year in Ravenna in 1938. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education at Kent State University in 1946.

Mildred taught at Atwater Elementary School and later at West Main Elementary School in Ravenna. She taught Sunday School at Rootstown United Methodist Church for many years.

Mildred lives at her niece's home in Rootstown. She enjoys reading and completing word search puzzles. Her nieces and nephews hosted a birthday celebration for Mildred. Besides the many cards and letters from friends and past students, she received a congratulatory letter from Willard Scott of the NBC "Today" show.



OLD AGE IS A GIFT!



Old age, I decided, is a gift.

I am now, probably for the first time in my life, the person I have always wanted to be. Oh, not my body! I sometime despair over my body... the wrinkles, the baggy eyes, and the sagging butt. And often I am taken aback by that old person that lives in my mirror, but I don't agonize over those things for long.

I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, my loving family for less gray hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become kinder to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend.

I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making by bed, or for buying that silly cement gecko that I didn't need, but looks so avant-garde on my patio. I am entitled to a treat, to be messy, to be extravagant.

I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I choose to read or play on the computer until 4 AM and sleep until noon? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 50's, 60's, and 70's, and if I at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love...I will.

I will walk the beach in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves with abandon if I choose to, despite pitying glances from the jet set.

They, too, will get old. I know I am sometimes forgetful. But then again, some of life is just as well forgotten. And I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when somebody's beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turning gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep groves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver.

As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself anymore. I've earned the right to be wrong.

I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day if I feel like it!

Editor's note: This was sent to me in an email. I tried to find the original author but couldn't pin it down. Regardless of who wrote it, I found it meaningful and inspiring and I hope you do too.

MEETING MINUTES - Ruth Weigand, Secretary



The highlights from the Executive Committee and luncheon meetings are provided below. Many of the meeting details are included in other reports in this newsletter. Complete minutes are available to all PCRTA members. Call **Ruth Weigand** (330-673-4788) for a print copy or look for the minutes on our website at www.pcrta.net.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – May 7, 2009

President **Ray Troxtell** called the meeting to order with 13 members in attendance. Details were worked out for the May 21 luncheon meeting.

ORTA Reports: **Ray Troxtell** and **Dave Gynn** attended the recent ORTA meeting. Ray told about pension funding and benefit issues and the status of the retirement systems.

Unfinished business: A bus trip was discussed. Some suggestions were a winery trip, Amish country, or a longer trip to Chicago.

Nominations: **Jan Fencl** reported that **Ruth Wiegand** had volunteered to continue as Recording Secretary.

Legislative: **Dan McCombs** reported that the cost of health care is reducing the principal of the health care stabilization fund, so that the cost of retiree premiums will probably be increased significantly.

Informative-Protective: **Kay Wise** said **Kathy Morris** sent a thank you note to the person who paid her ORTA/PCRTA dues. Her house is in foreclosure now.

Membership: **Art Fesemyer** had brochures prepared and they are ready to send out to new retirees. The cost including envelopes and stamps was \$306.98. He needs to find out the names of this year's retirees.

Newsletter: **Pat Gynn** reported that the cost of printing the newsletter went up ten cents per copy.

Retirement Planning: The date for the seminar is October 21. **Kay Wise** and **Ray Troxtell** will help committee chair, **Ria Mastromatteo**. **Dave Gynn** suggested putting posters in the schools.

Community Service: **Judy Morgan** reported the diaper drive for County Clothing Center was very successful. Items for Freedom House will be collected at this month's luncheon meeting.

Legislative: **Dan McCombs** said that the WEP bill had 199 co-sponsors in the House, but the companion Senate bill has none. He urged contacting legislators.

Memorial/Sunshine: **Mary Jane Brannon** reported that there are 13 deceased members to be honored at the luncheon meeting.

NEOUCOM Proctoring: **Edith Scott** reported there will be 900 hours of proctoring this year and more next year. She suggested we should renegotiate with NEOUCOM.

Scholarship: **Jim Montaquilla** said that he and his committee of **Harry Bowman**, **Jan Fencl**, and **Dave Gynn** evaluated 12 applicants from 7 different schools and chose 6 graduates to receive \$1,000 scholarships each.

Webmaster: **Connie Evans** reported that our website domain name needs to be renewed and must be paid with a credit card. **Dave Gynn** will check to see if we can use the ORTA credit card.

New Business: **Ray Troxtell** said there is need for a long-range planning committee. **Darlene Fetterhoff** and **Terrie Sargi** are working on expanding the Treasurer's office as a committee.

LUNCHEON MEETING – May 21, 2009

President **Ray Troxtell** convened the meeting and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Les Bennett** led the group in singing. **Father Pentello** gave the invocation.

Ray thanked **Connie Evans** and **Ken Granville** for acting as greeters. First-time visitors included: **Joe Huber** from Streetsboro, **Pat Mason** from KSU, **Jodi Johnson** from Hudson, **Gertrude Pierce** from Kent, and **Janice and Paul Stamm** from Solon.

The Twin Lakes Country Club Banquet Manager, **Crystal Katzenmeyer**, invited PCRTA members to join and use their facilities. She gave a short description of their membership features and prices.

The Treble Ensemble from Streetsboro High School, led by **Miss Sue Spurlock**, performed beautifully for the luncheon attendees.

Father Richard Pentello led the Memorial Service for the 2008 deceased PCRTA members. **Mary Jane Brannon** had prepared a lovely table with roses and the obituaries of the thirteen members who were being honored.

Emily Troxtell won \$44.50 in the 50/50 drawing. She donated it back to PCRTA.

Terrie Sargi won the drawing for the \$25 Giant Eagle Gift Card in the PCRTA Website Contest.

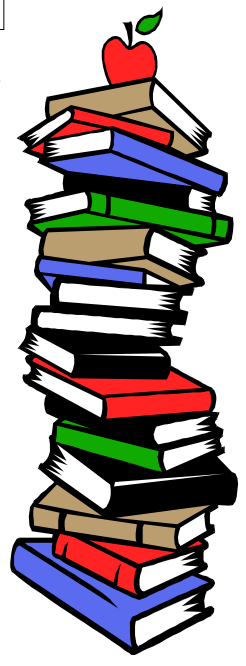
Dan McCombs, Legislative Chair, reported what had been discussed at the recent meeting of OCHER, the Ohio Council for Higher Education Retirees. He said that Email and phone calls were the best ways to contact legislators.

Announcements: **Darlene Fetterhoff** and **Terrie Sargi** will serve on the long-range planning committee. **Patricia Eichler**, **Saraj Sutaria**, and **Ruth Wiegand** volunteered to work on the newly formed Social Committee.



BRING A BOOK - TAKE A BOOK at the July Luncheon Meeting

Retired teachers seem to enjoy having more time to read. We will have our annual book exchange at the July meeting. Bring a few books you have recently enjoyed and take home a few books that you want to read. You may want to bring a few recent magazines, but please leave your college texts, encyclopedias, and older books at home. Left-over materials will be donated to the library book sale.



Thoughts to ponder on reading:

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go. --Dr. Seuss

We read to know we are not alone. --C. S. Lewis

If you read a lot of books you are considered well read. But if you watch a lot of TV, you're not considered well viewed. --Lily Tomlin

Reading is a discount ticket to everywhere. --Mary Schmich



*****BRING TO THE MEETING****BRING TO THE MEETING**** BRING TO THE MEETING ****

Again this year, we will be having a "Book Exchange" at our July Scholarship Luncheon. Bring some books that you have read and enjoyed and trade them for books that others brought.

**Luncheon Reservation for Thursday, July 16 12 noon
Twin Lakes Country Club – 1519 Overlook Drive, Kent**



Luncheon Menu: Sweet and Sour Pork, Rice, Chef's Choice
Vegetable, Salad, Rolls, and Assorted Desserts

Vegetarian Entree:
Pasta Primavera

Number of buffet lunch reservations _____ and names. Please print clearly.

Number of **vegetarian** lunch reservations _____ and names.

Your name and phone number _____

I have enclosed \$ _____ (\$10 for each luncheon reservation).

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY JULY 9. Mail your reservation and check made out to PCRTA to:
Les Bennett, 6222 Lakeview Drive, Ravenna, OH 44266 330-673-4115

Address Service Requested

Darlene Fetterhoff, Treasurer
2417 Duck Pond Drive
Ravenna, OH 44266-8221

Please notify PCRTA of
any address changes.

ADDRESS CODES

S=Life member in Ohio
Retired Teachers Association
P=Life member in Portage
County Teacher Association
A=Associate member in Portage County
Teacher Association



S2009P2009 = You have a current annual
membership in ORTA and PCRTA
S2008P2008 or previous years = You are
delinquent in your annual membership in
ORTA and PCRTA.

E-mail: PCRTA@aol.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 11— Maplewood Career Center
GED Graduation

July 9 — Executive Committee

July 16 — Luncheon Meeting—
Scholarship Recipients

September 10 — Executive
Committee

September 17 —

Luncheon Meeting—Carol Starre-
Kmiecik portrays Dorothy
Fuldheim;
New Retirees

October 21—Retirement Planning
Workshop

October 24—Make a Difference Day

November 5—Executive Committee

November 19—Luncheon Meeting
Officer Election

December 17—Luncheon, Christmas
Party, Officer Installation

Executive Committee meetings are
held at the Williamson Alumni
Center at Kent State at 9:30 a.m.

PCRTA July luncheon meeting will
be held at the Twin Lakes Country
Club, 1519 Overlook Drive, Kent, at
12:00 noon.

